



Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
District of North Dakota

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CONTACT: BETH LANG
PHONE: (701) 530-2420
FAX: (701) 530-2421

10-Year Sentence for Drug Conspiracy

BISMARCK- Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on May 10, 2010, **Darrell L. Belgarde**, 43, of Dunseith, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Judge Hovland sentenced Belgarde to serve 10 years in federal prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release. Belgarde was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The case involved methamphetamine being transported from Texas to the Bismarck/Mandan area. In January 2009, a search was conducted of Gillis's residence in Mandan, North Dakota, where approximately one ounce of methamphetamine was located. From June 2008 through January 2009, Belgarde received and distributed approximately five pounds of methamphetamine in the Bismarck/Mandan area. Christopher Gillis, who was living primarily in Mandan, North Dakota at the time, was also involved in the conspiracy. In July 2008, a search was conducted of Gillis's

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residence and vehicle, where approximately two ounces of methamphetamine was located. Gillis was sentenced to five years and five months in federal prison on October 26, 2009.

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Metro Area Narcotics Task Force and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney David Hagler prosecuted the case.

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